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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PTER, ASEC, AR, BR, PA, UY, CI

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR SOUTHERN CONE CONSULTATIONS IN  
WASHINGTON ON COUNTERTERRORISM

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6058

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1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: ARGENTINA HAS PROPOSED A MEETING OF  
SOUTHERN CONE OFFICIALS FROM ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE,  
PARAGUAY, AND URUGUAY HOSTED BY THE U.S. IN WASHINGTON  
TO DISCUSS COOPERATION IN COUNTERTERRORISM AND DISCUSS  
WAYS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THIS. THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES A  
POSSIBLE FORMAT AND AGENDA FOR SUCH A MEETING AND  
REQUESTS POSTS COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON  
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X6  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 27 SEP 2024  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 JAN 2010 200906077

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3. DURING SEPTEMBER 4-8 VISIT OF S/CT COORDINATOR WILCOX AND INTERAGENCY TEAM TO ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, AND BRAZIL, WILCOX DISCUSSED WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING OF SOUTHERN CONE OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS GREATER COOPERATION IN COMBATTING TERRORISM. THE GENESIS OF THIS WAS AN EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A MEETING BY ARGENTINE MINISTER OF INTERIOR RUCKAUF. WILCOX SUGGESTED TO RUCKAUF DURING THEIR MEETING IN

BUENOS AIRES THAT ARGENTINA HOST SUCH A MEETING, BUT RUCKAUF BELIEVED ARGENTINA'S NEIGHBORS WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A MEETING MORE READILY IF THE U.S. WERE TO HOST IT IN WASHINGTON. PARAGUAYAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUCH A MEETING WHEN WILCOX RAISED THE IDEA, AND THE BRAZILIANS TOOK IT UNDER ADVISEMENT.

4. WE THINK SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN LIGHT OF THE AMIA BOMBING IN BUENOS AIRES AND THE HEIGHTENED HIZBALLAH THREAT IN LATIN AMERICA. WE AGREE WITH RUCKAUF THAT IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO INCLUDE ALL  
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FIVE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMON BORDERS AND OTHER COOPERATIVE LINKS. BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE SUCH A MEETING WE WOULD LIKE EMBASSIES VIEWS ON THE CONCEPT AND THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY IDEAS ON FORMAT AND AGENDA.

5. WE WOULD ENVISAGE A TWO TO THREE DAY MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH STATE, FBI, DOJ, [ ] AND FAA WOULD ORGANIZE A PROGRAM OF BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS (POSTS MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL IDEAS):

B1

- ASSESSMENT OF TERRORIST THREAT (WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO HIZBALLAH)
- INTELLIGENCE SHARING
- LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION
- BORDER CONTROLS INCLUDING PASSPORT AND DOCUMENT SECURITY
- AVIATION SECURITY
- INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- WITNESS PROTECTION
- EXPLOSIVES DETECTION
- TRENDS IN COUNTERTERRORISM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
- ATA AND C/T TRAINING

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- LAW REFORM
- INTERAGENCY COOPERATION
- INSTITUTIONALIZING SOUTHERN CONE COOPERATION ON COUNTERTERRORISM

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6. SINCE THE PURPOSE OF SUCH A MEETING IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND PROMPT DISCUSSION AND COOPERATION AMONG NEIGHBORING STATES, SESSIONS COULD BE ORGANIZED ON EACH

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TOPIC WITH INITIAL BRIEFINGS BY U.S. EXPERTS OR COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ANY OF THE POTENTIAL INVITEES SHOULD BE ASKED TO PROVIDE INITIAL PRESENTATIONS, OR IF U.S. SHOULD LEAD OFF IN ALL CASES?

7. THE FBI IS WILLING TO MAKE AVAILABLE ITS FACILITIES IN QUANTICO IN SOME WAY, IF THIS WOULD BE USEFUL, AND WE WOULD PLAN MEALS AND REPRESENTATIONAL EVENTS.

8. AS FOR TIMING, WE WOULD LOOK FOR DATES THAT WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH NATIONAL HOLIDAYS OR OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS IN INVITEE COUNTRIES. GIVEN THE DECEMBER SUMMIT, WE THINK FEBRUARY OR MARCH WOULD BE REALISTIC TARGET DATES. (IN ADDITION TO SUCH A MEETING OF SOUTHERN CONE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES A SEPARATE VISIT OF ARGENTINE CONGRESSMEN TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY TO MEET WITH CONGRESSIONAL COUNTERPARTS AND OTHER EXPERTS NERE ON LAW REFORM, IN CONNECTION WITH GOA'S CURRENT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN LEGISLATION DEALING WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF COUNTERTERRORISM.

9. WE WOULD LOOK TO PARTICIPANTS TO FUND THEIR OWN TRAVEL AND PER DIEM.

10. WE REALIZE THAT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COUNTERTERRORISM ARE WIDELY DISPERSED IN AT LEAST SOME OF THE SOUTHERN CONE GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO INVITE REPRESENTATIVES

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FROM ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES IN EACH COUNTRY, AS THIS  
WOULD MEAN A CONFERENCE ON A SCALE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE.  
WE WOULD SUGGEST THEREFORE NO MORE THAN TWO OR THREE  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH COUNTRY WHO WOULD BE IN A  
POSITION TO SPEAK WITH SOME AUTHORITY ON THEIR  
RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS' PRACTICES AND CONVEY BACK THE  
RESULTS OF THEIR CONSULTATIONS HERE TO COLLEAGUES AT  
NOME.

11 BEFORE FLESHING OUT SUCH A MEETING, WE WOULD VALUE  
POSTS COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE.  
CHRISTOPHER

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